(c) Funding provided under these Centrally Sponsored Schemes has resulted in creation of improved infrastructure for promotion, conservation and development of forests and wildlife.

Fire in forests

3225. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of forests that caught fire this summer and the number of incidents of fire reported, giving the details, State-wise;

(b) whether the fire incidents were successfully controlled in all cases;

(c) the details of the damage caused by these fire incidents; and

(d) the long term arrangements made to control or prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) This information is not collected at the Central level. However, the same is being collected from the State/UT Forest Departments and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(d) The Government of India through its Centrally Sponsored Integrated Forest Protection Scheme provides financial assistance to the State/UT Governments to supplement their forest-fire prevention and control measures. The long term measures being taken to prevent and control forest-fires include:

(i) Setting up of Fire Fighting Cells with surveillance and communication equipments and mobility.

(ii) Fire mapping and preparation of Fire Management Plans.

(iii) Use of MODIS Satellite data through web-based facility for near real time detection of fire and intimation to the concerned State/UT Forest Department by the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun.

(iv) Creation and maintenance of Fire Lines by removal of fire hazards before the onset of fire season and during the season.

(v) Construction of Fire Watch Towers at strategic locations.

(vi) Construction of Water Storage Structures and storage of water.

(vii) Engagement of Fire Watchers during fire season.

(viii) Involvement of local people through Joint Forest Management Committees in surveillance, reporting and fire fighting.

(ix) Training and awareness of personnel and people.

Fire in Corbett National Park

3226. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that high alert has been sounded in the Corbett National Park following a major fire in the periphery of Uttarakhand Park in April this year;